

# Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation

U.S. Support for NPT Article IV

## UNITED STATES & ROMANIA

Through the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United States contributes to the work of many countries using nuclear materials and technology for peaceful purposes. In recent years, U.S. support has focused on achieving tangible and lasting benefits in fields that are vital to human development, including agriculture, human health, water resource management, and human resource development. Since 2000, the IAEA has approved and funded \$7,112,123, including \$400,506 in 2013, under its Technical Cooperation (TC) program for projects in Romania.



In addition to the United States' longstanding support for the IAEA's activities to promote peaceful nuclear applications, at the 2010 NPT Review Conference, the United States announced a \$100 million USD effort to expand this support over the next five years. The United States has pledged \$50 million towards the IAEA's Peaceful Uses Initiative (PUI), focusing on human health, food security, water resource management, and nuclear power infrastructure development.

The United States views its support for peaceful uses of nuclear energy, to which all NPT Parties are entitled, as a critical part of its broader effort to strengthen the IAEA and the global nuclear nonproliferation regime. The U.S. has already designated over \$22 million for IAEA projects benefitting over 120 countries, including Romania, for which funding was previously unavailable. The United States is working with partners to reach the \$100 million goal, and welcomes commitments of over \$12 million from Japan, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Sweden, Australia, France, Indonesia, Brazil, Italy, the UK and Kazakhstan.

### NUCLEAR ENERGY

Due to the continued increase in fossil fuel prices, concerns about secure supply and an increasing awareness of the importance of greenhouse gas reductions, several countries are considering expanding their nuclear power programs or introducing nuclear energy for the first time. This requires

careful planning, preparation and investment in a sustainable infrastructure to provide the legal, regulatory, technological, and human resources necessary. Romania is therefore participating in a regional TC project sponsored by the United States to strengthen national and regional infrastructures for the planning and development of nuclear power programs. The project will ensure that any Member State planning the introduction or expansion of nuclear energy has a complete understanding of the range of issues and activities to be addressed before implementation of a nuclear power project.

### NUCLEAR FUEL

Recently, several countries, including Romania, participated in U.S.-sponsored regional TC projects to convert research reactor cores from highly enriched uranium (HEU) to low enriched uranium (LEU) and facilitate the return of highly enriched and low-enriched uranium to the country of origin. The projects assisted participating countries with research reactors to repatriate, manage, or dispose of their fresh or irradiated fuel, and supported the Russian Research Reactor Fuel Return program and the Global Threat Reduction Initiative.

### NUCLEAR SAFETY

Disused facilities and sites contaminated because of activities involving the use of radioactive material exist worldwide and many pose continuing health risks to adjacent communities and, potentially, to the wider public. Romania is currently participating in an interregional TC project sponsored by the United States that will provide support and assistance toward the efficient clean-up of radioactive contaminated facilities and sites. Through this project, barriers to the acceptance of continued or

1. *Nuclear power plant under construction.*  
Credit: IAEA
2. *Exploring ways to secure radioactive waste for generations to come.* Credit: Comet
3. *Verifying a load of highly enriched uranium fuel before it is brought back to Russia.*  
Credit: Dean Calma/IAEA

expanded applications of peaceful uses of nuclear technology can, to some extent, be removed. Romania is also participating in regional TC projects through which Member States will improve their comprehensive regulatory infrastructure for the safety and control of radiation sources, establish and develop adequate and effective regulatory mechanisms, and harmonize and streamline national capabilities for regulatory control in full compliance with the IAEA Safety Standards and international requirements.

## AGRICULTURE

The Mediterranean fruit fly causes major damage by reducing fruit and vegetable production, increasing insecticide use, and hindering international trading in fruits and vegetables.

Romania is working through a regional TC project sponsored by the United States to enhance agricultural productivity in the Balkans and Eastern Mediterranean by supporting fruit fly pest prevention and management. This will be accomplished through sharing technical knowledge and providing support to selected fruit fly suppression programs in which the use of the sterile insect technique (SIT), as part of an area-wide integrated management approach, has already proven to be technically and economically feasible.

## HUMAN RESOURCES

To contribute to Member States' manpower development, the IAEA awards individual fellowships and organizes group training courses. Every year, numerous fellows and training course participants travel to the United States for training in various peaceful uses of nuclear technology and return to their home country to apply the lessons learned.

Since 2000, the United States has hosted multiple training courses that included Romanian participants in fields such as operational safety, decommissioning, nuclear and radiological safety, energy analysis, fuel safety and management, geological disposal. Training was also provided through the IAEA Fellowship Program to four Romanians, one of which was sponsored by the United States, in the fields of power reactors, management systems, radiation protection, and safety.

Additionally, since 2000, 39 U.S. experts have traveled to Romania to collaborate through various IAEA Technical Cooperation projects. Examples of some topics include radioactive waste disposal, seismic hazard analysis, spent fuel, safety, radiation protection equipment, and quality assurance.



1. *Damaged apples infested with fruit flies. Credit: Louise Potterton/IAEA*
2. *Standard maintenance check. Credit: Arthus-Bertrand*
3. *IAEA fellows receive training in plant breeding. Credit: Dean Calma/IAEA*

Through bilateral efforts, the United States has provided direct support to Member States through various collaborative projects such as the exchange of information, expert visits, and training of personnel.

Nuclear technology and materials require careful management by well-trained personnel. Countries with emerging nuclear programs often lack the human resources needed to design and implement their nuclear programs.

In September 2000, the U.S. Nuclear

Regulatory Commission signed arrangements with the Romanian National Commission for Nuclear Activities Control (CNCAN) regarding the exchange of technical information and cooperation in nuclear safety matters and thermal-hydraulic code applications and maintenance.

In 2006, assistance was provided by Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to the Romanian Institute for Nuclear Research (ICN) in the areas of simulating radioactive waste migration in the environment as well as groundwater flow and radionuclide transport modeling, as part of a nuclear

safety assessment for the final disposition of waste in the proposed radioactive waste repository at Siligny.

The Cernavoda-2 nuclear power reactor was completed in 2007 and connected to the grid in January 2008. Currently, Budapest is coordinating efforts to award contracts for the remaining three plants, the last of which is planned to be completed by 2020.

Additionally, since 2000, seven Romanian physicians have been certified in the U.S. through the American Board of Nuclear Medicine.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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